

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03648 261302Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01

/129 W

----- 079984

O 261240Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4443

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3648

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS MARR

SUBJECT: INCREASED ISRAELI READINESS

REF: CAIRO 3632

1. USINTOFF WHO ACCOMPANIED STAFFDEL KENNEY TO FRONT LINES IN ISMAILIA AND SUEZ AREA ON NOVEMBER 25 DID NOT DISCERN ANY CHANGE IN THE STATE OF READINESS ON THE PART OF EGYPTIAN FORCES IN THE AREA FROM THE CONDITIONS OBSERVED ON HIS TRIP OF NOVEMBER 23 WITH CODEL STRATTON. STAFFDEL KENNEY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GEN. MAAMOUN AND WAS TAKEN FIRST TO SECOND ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN ISMAILIA. GEN. MAAMOUN PERSONALLY GAVE AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF BRIEFING ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE OCTOBER WAR, THE ACTUAL EXECUTION OF BATTLE AND THE PRESENT POSITIONS. HE WAS VERY FRANK AND RESPONDED FREELY TO QUESTIONS BY THE STAFFDEL, DECLINING TO ANSWER ONLY THE QUESTIONS OF HOW THE EGYPTIANS HAD MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH SURPRISE IN THEIR ATTACK AND, SECOND, HOW MANY CASUALTIES THE EGYPTIAN ARMY HAD INCURRED. AFTER THE LENGTHY BRIEFING, GROUP WAS TAKEN TO SECOND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS IN THE SINAI SOMEWHERE EAST OF VERDAN BRIDGE. THE COMMANDER OF THE DIVISION, BRIG. HASSAN ABU SAADA, WAS VERY RELAXED AND HUMOROUS AS HE OFFERED THE USUAL COFFEE AND AFTER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 03648 261302Z

A BRIEF POLITICAL LECTURE CONCERNING HIS HOPE FOR IMPROVED

US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, HE TOLD A FEW HUMOROUS WAR STORIES TO THE GROUP. AFTERWARDS HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TOOK THE GROUP TO VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN HIS COMMAND, INCLUDING THE FORMER ISRAELI SINAI CENTRAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, THE MAJOR STRONGPOINT NEAR THE VERDAN BRIDGE WHICH HAD HELD OUT FOR ALMOST 48 HOURS, AND THE AREA ON THE CENTRAL SINAI ROAD WHERE THE EGYPTIAN FORCES HAD DEFEATED THE ISRAELI 190TH ARMORED BRIGADE AND CAPTURED ITS COMMANDER. STAFFDEL AND USINTOFF WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT THROUGHOUT THE AREA WHICH WERE WELL ENTRENCHED AND ALERT, BUT THERE WAS NO SENSE OF TENSION.

2. AFTER THE TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELD SITES, GROUP RETURNED TO SECOND ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN ISMAILIA, ACCOMPANIED BY BRIG. HASSAN. THERE, GEN. MAAMOUN HOSTED A LUNCHEON WHICH INCLUDED BRIG. HASSAN AND SEVERAL OF THE SECOND ARMY COMMANDERS. UPON THEIR RETURN TO CAIRO LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, USINTOFF AND STAFFDEL MEMBERS COMPARED IMPRESSIONS AND UNIFORMLY AGREED THAT TROOPS IN THE AREA WERE NOT IN ANY HIGH STATE OF TENSION, AND THE FACT THAT THE DIVISION COMMANDER FELT FREE TO LEAVE HIS FRONT LINE TROOPS IN ORDER TO RETURN TO ISMAILIA FOR A LUNCHEON SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT, FROM THE EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT, AN IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES WAS NOT ANTICIPATED.

EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO03648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731114/aaaaajyf.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAIRO 3632
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASED ISRAELI READINESS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005